



# PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

(RCW 34.05.310)

CR-101 (7/22/01)

Do **NOT** use for expedited rule making

Agency: Department of Ecology A.O. 03-11

Subject of possible rule making: Amendment to Chapter 173-224 WAC – Wastewater Discharge Permit Fees

(a) Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject: RCW 90.48.465 – Water Pollution control

(b) Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish: Ecology is proposing to amend the existing rule that will increase annual permit fees for fiscal years 2005 and 2006 as well as create a new permit fee structure for Phase 2 Stormwater Municipalities. Ecology also is proposing to amend the existing fee structures for concentrated Animal Feeding Operations and Shipyards to incorporate new types of permitting. The fee increase will allow Ecology to continue operation of the Wastewater Discharge Permit Program. RCW 90.48.465 – Water Pollution Control requires annual fees be paid by all permit holders who have wastewater discharge permit coverage.

(c) Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies:  
N/A

(d) Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):

☐ Negotiated rule making

☐ Pilot rule making

☐ Agency study

☒ Other (describe) Ecology uses a Water Quality Partnership to provide guidance on various issues, one of which concerns amendments to the permit fee regulation. This Partnership consists of industrial permit holders, municipal permit holders, government entities, environmental groups, etc. Permit holders will be notified directly of the proposed rule amendments.

(e) How interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication:

(List names, addresses, telephone, fax numbers of persons to contact; describe meetings, other exchanges of information, etc.)

Ecology contact:

Bev Poston, Department of Ecology; PO Box 47600; Olympia Washington 98504-7600

Phone number: (360) 407-6425; Fax number: (360) 407-6426; E-mail address: [bpos461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:bpos461@ecy.wa.gov)

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NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)  
Richard K. Wallace

SIGNATURE  
RICHARD K. WALLACE

TITLE  
Program Manager

DATE  
12/16/03